

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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AF-06 EUR-12 SAM-01 /087 W
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R 172122Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3239

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CS, JM, AO, BH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER'S VISIT TO JAMAICA

REF: SAN JOSE 1308

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH ME MARCH 16, PRESIDENT ODUBER CONFIRMED MANY OF POINTS MADE TO ME EARLIER BY FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO (REFTTEL AND STRESSED THAT JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND HIS COLLEAGUES CONSIDER THEIR BACKING OF CUBA'S INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A SPECIAL CASE. MANLEY STRESSED THAT JAMAICA HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED AFRICAN LIBERATION AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. IN CASE RY ANGOLA SUPPORT FOR CUBA WAS JUSTIFIED IN FACE OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION AND AS A LESSER EVIL THAN DIRECT, OPEN INTERVENTION BY THE SOVIET UNION. MANLEY VOLUNTEERED THAT HIS VIEWS ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS WERE INFLUENCED BY TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERERE, WHO IN THIS CASE FELT THAT NETO WAS THE ONLY VALID AFRICAN NATIONALIST LEADER IN THE COUNTRY. MANLEY STRESSED HE WOULD OPPOSE ANY CUBAN INTERVENTION ANYWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA OR THE CARIBBEAN. I REMARKED THAT THE VERY BASIS OF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S POSITION SEEMED ILL-FOUNDED TO ME BECAUSE THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF "LIBERATION" OF ANGOLA SINCE IT HAD ALREADY
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BEEN GRANTED INDEPENDENCE; IT WAS RATHER A QUESTION OF WHETHER

A MINORITY FACTION WOULD BE ENABLED, THROUGH OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN SEEKING A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE OTHER MAJOR INTERNAL POLITICAL FORCES. ODUBER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED WITH THAT POSITION.

2. MANLEY CONFIRMED STRONG SUPPORT FOR BELIZE INDEPENDENCE BUT EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT MATTER BE SETTLED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. MANLEY SUGGESTED THAT SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY EXISTS NOW FOR THE U.S. TO HELP BY USING MASSIVE ECONOMIC AID TO GUATEMALA AS A LEVER TO ENCOURAGE GUATEMALA TO ACCEPT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION RESPECTING THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE. ODUBER ASKED THAT THIS MESSAGE BE CONVEYED TO THE USG.

3. ODUBER SAID MANLEY IS INTERESTED IN STENGTHENING TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA AND HAS AGREED TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH COSTA RICA IN THIS REGARD. PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND GENERAL TORRIJOS ARE ALSO PREPARED TO COOPERATE TO LINK JAMIACA MORE CLOSELY TO CENTRAL AMERICA. TODMAN

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